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Viewing cable 08KINSHASA189, CONGOLESE URANIUM: GDRC LOOKS TO CHINA FOR HELP

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08KINSHASA189**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08KINSHASA189	2008-02-22 14:46	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET//NOFORN	Embassy Kinshasa

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.spiegel.de/>

VZCZCXRO4862
OO RUEH DU RUEH MR RUEH RN
DE RUEH KI #0189/01 0531446
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 221446Z FEB 08
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO RUEH C/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7579
INFO RUEH XR/RWANDA COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEH SA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE 4044
RUEH VI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE 0043
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK IMMEDIATE
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA IMMEDIATE 0026
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC IMMEDIATE

<<142612>>
2/22/2008 14:46
08KINSHASA189
Embassy Kinshasa
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07KINSHASA798
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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7579
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RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE 4044
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RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA IMMEDIATE 0026
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TAGS: [EMIN](#) [ENRG](#) [ETRD](#) [KNNP](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PINS](#)
SUBJECT: CONGOLESE URANIUM: GDRC LOOKS TO CHINA FOR HELP
REF: 07 KINSHASA 798

S e c r e t section 01 of 02 kinshasa 000189

Sipdis

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E.o. 12958: decl: 02/22/2018
Tags: emin, enrg, etrd, knnp, pgov, pinr, pins
Subject: congolese uranium: gdrc looks to china for help

Ref: 07 kinshasa 798

Classified By: Acting DCM Craig Cloud for reasons 1.4 (b), (c), and (f)

¶1. (S/NF) Summary: Minister xxxxxxxxxxxx briefed the Ambassador on possible future Chinese involvement in uranium studies in the DRC at the request of President Kabila. End Summary.

¶2. (U) Minister xxxxxxxxxxxx requested a meeting with Ambassador Garvelink Thursday, 21 February after having met with him the previous week, along with Management Officer xxxxxxxxxxxx and xxxxxxxxxxxx to the United States, xxxxxxxxxxxx, to discuss recent complaints from Washington DC community groups concerning the advanced state of decay of the GDRC properties in Washington. We assumed that the subject of the follow-on meeting would be the same. It was not.

¶3. (SBU) xxxxxxxxxxxx emphasized that he was delivering a demarche at the request of President Kabila. He said the GDRC was very sensitive as to how the USG perceived the relationship between the GDRC and the Chinese Government, and he had requested the meeting in the interest of transparency. xxxxxxxxxxxx presented a rather lengthy description of the poor state of affairs in the Congo, recently emerged from a dictatorship that had stagnated development, closely followed by two civil wars, lack of infrastructure, education and capacity.

¶4. (SBU) He said the DRC's sole means of escaping this situation was by trading on its only assets -- natural resources. He reeled off a litany of recent infrastructure agreements with China that aimed to construct 3600 km (2200 miles) of paved roads, 3200 km (2000 miles) of railway lines, two universities, 51 105-bed hospitals, and 32 150-bed hospitals, all in return for mineral rights to copper and cobalt that the Chinese are willing to pay more for than western nations.

¶5. (S/NF) xxxxxxxxxxxx said that the reason for our meeting was to let the USG know that the GDRC was very concerned about its uranium deposits. He noted two problems facing the GDRC in this regard: 1) the size of uranium deposits and their locations are unknown and present a grave national security problem; and 2) what to do with all of the uranium once the locations and quantities are known. To address the first problem, xxxxxxxxxxxx said the GDRC is negotiating an agreement to allow Chinese geological studies aimed at pinpointing the

location and size of uranium deposits. He stressed that the negotiations are only tentative, and that they are strictly to study uranium distribution, not/not extraction.

¶6. (S/NF) To address the second problem, xxxxxxxxxxxx stated that once the quantity and location of the uranium reserves is determined the GDRC might approach the "nuclear club" to determine their interest in buying the uranium. (Note: The GDRC currently has a law on the books that absolutely prohibits the mining of uranium within its borders. According to open sources there are at least two companies already engaged in Uranium exploration in the DRC, Brinkley Mining Plc, and Elemental Minerals, Ltd. End Note.)

¶7. (S/NF) xxxxxxxxxxxx said the GDRC would welcome our advice on this uranium matter and requested that we treat the conversation as confidential. The Ambassador said he would report back to Washington and might have more questions and comments at a later date.

¶8. (S/NF) Comment: xxxxxxxxxxxx is a long-time political ally of both Joseph and Laurent Kabila, and has been closely involved in negotiations with the Chinese on infrastructure improvements. The timeframe for reaching an agreement for uranium exploration by the Chinese is unknown, but we believe that negotiations have already begun. With the recent sharp increases in uranium prices on the world market, partly due to renewed interest in new nuclear power generating stations, the GDRC may well be interested in not only knowing where its uranium deposits are, but in making the moves necessary now to cash in on the potential demand for uranium (reftel). End

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Comment.
Garvelink